



**SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY PRACTICE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**October 25, 2007**

Department of Consumer Affairs  
Medical Board of California  
1424 Howe Avenue  
Greg Gorges Conference Room "F"  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 263-2666

**Committee Members Present**

Lisa O'Connor, M.A., Chairperson  
Carol Murphy, M.A.  
Jennifer Hancock, M.A.

**Staff Present**

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer  
Candace Raney, Staff Analyst  
Lori Pinson, Staff Analyst  
George Ritter, Legal Counsel

**Committee Members Absent**

Diana Verdugo, M.S.

**Board Members Present**

Rebecca Binge, Au.D.  
Naomi Smith, Au.D.  
Paul Donald, M.D.

**Board Members Absent**

Alison Grimes, Au.D.  
Diana Verdugo, M.S.

**Guests Present**

Robert Powell, California Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
Sally Van Bebber-Salter, San Joaquin Delta College

**The following guests participated in the meeting via teleconference:**

Betty Sundberg, Educational Specialist

**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson O'Connor called the meeting to order at 1:42 p.m.

**II. Introductions**

Those present introduced themselves.

### **III. Speech-Language Pathology Assistants**

#### **A. Discussion Regarding Implementation Issues with the New Provisions Authorizing Bachelor's Degree Applicants to Apply Work Experience Toward Registration Requirements [California Code of Regulations Section 1399.170.11]**

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the Board has received a handful of applications from Bachelor's degree holders who are employed by the public schools to provide speech and language services under credential waivers or who function in the capacity of an instructional aide and wish to apply their work experience toward the new speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA) registration requirements. She stated that she was uncertain as to whether the Board intended this type of work experience to be acceptable under the new regulatory provisions since it may not be directly equivalent to that of an SLPA. Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that speech-language pathology aides working in private settings where direct supervision is required would not necessarily meet the new provision because the duties of an aide are typically more clerical and remedial and not equivalent to the scope of responsibility of that of an SLPA.

Mr. Robert Powell stated that school personnel are utilized much differently than those who work in private or clinical settings. He stated that instructional aides working in schools may be functioning very similar to that of an SLPA and sometimes with more autonomy. Mr. Powell commented that speech and language specialists holding waivers do have independent caseloads and are definitely qualified, from a practical standpoint, to serve as an SLPA. He suggested that the Board would have more oversight of the Bachelor's degree speech and language "waivered" personnel if the Board were to register these individuals as SLPAs.

Chairperson O'Connor stated that she has concerns regarding the ability of Bachelor's degree holders who have worked independently for some length of time to operate in a subordinate capacity since some of these individuals may not have a thorough understanding of the boundaries and supervision parameters that govern paraprofessionals.

Ms. Del Mugnaio commented that, if the Board makes a general policy decision to disallow these candidates for SLPA registration, then several of the Bachelor's degree holders may continue to operate under the Department of Education as waived personnel with little to no supervision, as opposed to evaluating the work experience on a case-by-case basis and registering those applicants who have extensive work experience with speech and language therapy. She stated that once these individuals are registered the Board can enforce the appropriate SLPA scope of responsibility and supervision requirements. Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that it will be the responsibility of the SLPA supervisor and the registrant to establish the professional reporting relationship as required by law. She stated that the Board will have more purview to monitor school-based speech and language personnel if these individuals qualify under the SLPA registration requirements.

**M/S/C: Murphy/Hancock**

The Committee voted to recommend to the full Board that any individuals who hold a Bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders or speech-language pathology and have accumulated the nine months of full-time work experience in the public school providing speech

and language therapy should be considered for registration as an SLPA, based on an evaluation of the duties performed in their professional or paraprofessional capacity.

## **B. Examine Issues Relating to Training Program Expansions/Satellite Campuses**

Chairperson O'Connor stated that the Board and several individuals involved in the SLPA training programs were contacted about concerns with the relatively new expansion of the San Joaquin Delta SLPA program to a satellite campus at the Santa Rosa Community College. She stated that there are on-going concerns regarding the lack of student support at the Santa Rosa campus and that there is no administrative support for the SLPA program in Santa Rosa. Ms. O'Connor stated that there were concerns expressed regarding the students at the Santa Rosa campus not being eligible for identification cards, parking permits, and academic counseling, as well as other program coordination issues. Ms. O'Connor stated that it appears there is little infrastructure support at the Santa Rosa campus as there is not on-site program director.

Ms. Sally Van Bebber-Salter, the SLPA Training Program Director for the San Joaquin Delta campus, addressed the Board and acknowledged that there are issues that need to be resolved with the new satellite campus at Santa Rosa. She stated that she is planning on meeting with the Santa Rosa college administration to work through the student support issues, although she wanted to wait until after the Board meeting so that she was clear as to the issues that have been raised. Ms. Van Bebber-Salter reported that there are excellent SLPA faculty members at the Santa Rosa site who are all extremely knowledgeable in the field of speech-language pathology, and that she believes the concerns raised with the administration of the program can be resolved in a timely manner. Ms. Van Bebber-Salter stated that she does not believe the instruction at the Santa Rosa campus compromises the rigor or integrity of the San Joaquin Delta SLPA Program. She stated that her goal in establishing satellite campuses is to expand the SLPA training to more Northern California locations since currently San Joaquin Delta is the only operable training site.

Chairperson O'Connor stated that the new SLPA training program at American River College in Sacramento should be enrolling students by fall 2008.

She also commented that the Santa Rosa college does not appear to have an investment in the delivery of SLPA training, otherwise the administration would ensure that the infrastructure would be in place for its students enrolling in the SLPA courses. She further stated that, without an on-site SLPA training program director at the satellite campus, student and academic issues that arise cannot be adequately addressed in a timely manner and, as a result, program instruction and student matriculation are negatively impacted. Chairperson O'Connor stated that program expansion of this type circumvents the rigorous program development and approval process and, thus, significant program coordination and resources may be overlooked.

Chairperson O'Connor recommended that existing regulations be amended to require that each sponsoring institution of an SLPA training program shall be approved by the Chancellor's Office designated for the community college for which the program shall be located.

Ms. Van Bebber-Salter stated that the Education Code provides community colleges the authority to enter into contractual agreements to offer programs of instruction at coordinated campuses.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that Mr. Ritter will have to research the legal issues surrounding the Board restricting such satellite or ancillary program expansion for SLPA training.

**M/S/C: O'Connor/Hancock**

The Committee voted to recommend to the full Board that regulatory language be developed to restrict speech-language pathology assistant training program expansion to satellite campuses where institutional review and approval has not been secured through the Chancellor's Office.

Robert Powell commented that further discussion and exploration of additional SLPA training opportunities will be held as a result of AB 962, which mandates the formation of a study group on this issue comprised of community college leaders and key stakeholders, such as the Board, CSHA, the California Schools Employee Association, and the Association of School Administrators. He stated that a full report is due to the Legislature by June 1, 2008.

**IV. Status on Dialogue with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing  
Regarding Moving Toward a Uniform Standard for the Practice of Speech-Language  
Pathology**

Chairperson O'Connor announced that the discussion item regarding the dialogue between the Board and California Commission on Teacher Credentialing regarding authorization of speech-language pathology practice would be tabled until the full Board meeting the following day, as Chairperson O'Connor will report on the matter during the Chairperson's report under agenda item IV.A.

Chairperson O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.